

(sometimes quite excusably) and, much less inevitably, each described over again species of his own about which he had forgotten. By a systematic study of type specimens Dr. Christensen has been able to put in their proper places these confused and confusing names, so far as they relate to the Rock collections, and his accompanying comment is of high value.

To any young taxonomist beginning the study of ferns, Dr. Christensen's statement of his point of view and methods on pages 266 and 267 is likewise most heartily commended.¹

THE OLDEST LIVING FERN.—One modern fern species is reported as identical with a form existing millions of years ago in Eocene time, namely, *Onoclea sensibilis*. The fossil form was described by Newberry as *O. sensibilis fossilis*. It is referred to in a recent book by Dr. F. H. Knowlton of the U. S. Geological Survey ("Plants of the Past"), Fig. 85 in that text shows a fragment of a leaf with the lobing and venation clearly evident. It would be strange if the form of several million years earlier was identically the same as our modern species, but paleontologists who have studied it have not found evidence as yet justifying separation as a distinct species. It is further noteworthy as the only modern fern species known also as fossil.

ASPLENIUM BRADLEYI ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED ON LIMESTONE AGAIN.—In carrying out studies on the soil reaction preferences of ferns, I have repeatedly tested the soils supporting Bradley's Spleenwort, and have in-

¹ Christensen, C. Asiatic Pteridophyta collected by Joseph F. Rock, 1920-1924. Cont. U. S. Nat. Herb. 26: 265-337, pl. 13-29. 1931.